



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”

March 15, 2026



Fourth Sunday in Lent
the good news

|Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24:17-22
protection and care for the vulnerable

Worship Leaders:
Pastor: Michael Small
Liturgist: Joanna Aamodt
Greeter: Steve Bilben
Special Music: EmBELLishment
Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb

Tech: Ace Diehl (Video), Samuel Batson (Audio)
Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

† HYMN

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

#539

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God loves the field mouse.

All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.**

One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

† For those who are able, please stand.

One: So let us worship this good-news God! Amen.

A TIME OF CENTERING

(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

(Includes scripture verses from Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21, Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1.)

One: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

All: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

One: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

One: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."

**All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

One: May this good news change our lives! Amen.

† PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

EmBELLishment

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

† For those who are able, please stand.

Focus Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 652). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹³ Then small children were brought to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and pray for them. The disciples began to scold the parents, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the children alone—let them come to me. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ And after laying his hands on them, Jesus left that town.

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* (p. 110). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹⁷ Do not deprive the foreigner living among you of justice, or the orphan either; nor take the cloak of the widow or widower as collateral. ¹⁸ Do not forget that you were slaves in Egypt, and YHWH, your God, redeemed you from that place. So it is that I command you to do these things.

¹⁹ When you are harvesting in your field and overlook a sheaf of grain, do not go back for it afterward. Leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, or the widowed, so that YHWH, your God, may bless you in all the work that you do. ²⁰ When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains to the foreigner, the orphan, or the widowed. ²¹ When you harvest grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the orphan, or the widowed. ²² Remember that once you were slaves in Egypt, and this is why I command you to do this.

REFLECTION **“Protection and Care for the Vulnerable”**

HYMN **“See the Precious Children”** Insert

† For those who are able, please stand.

See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("As We Gather at Your Table")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

EmBELLishment

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

DOXOLOGY: *(as collection plates come forward)*

Tune #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Into a world desperate for signs of hope,

All: let these gifts arrive as beacons.

One: Into communities working for signs of freedom,

All: let these gifts unlock shackles.

One: Into hearts searching for signs of compassion,

All: let these gifts offer tenderness.

One: Into each breath yearning for signs of new life,

All: let these gifts come as possibility. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children**

† For those who are able, please stand.

and led with nonviolence.

I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive
in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

†HYMN

“O for a World”

#575

PARTING WORDS

POSTLUDE

WI-FI – “Guest” Scan QR Code for Internet Access

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